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Sen. Toy announces passage of bill to designate Juneteenth Day as a holiday in Michigan

LANSING – The Michigan Senate on Tuesday approved legislation to declare the third Saturday in June of each year “Juneteenth National Freedom Day,” announced Sen. Laura Toy, R-Livonia.

“Juneteenth Day is a very important day for the African-American community because June 19 is the anniversary of the day slavery was officially outlawed in the United States. It took that long for the message to spread to the outlying states,” said Toy, chair of the Senate Local, Urban and State Affairs Committee. “Southeast Michigan served as a key stop on the Underground Railroad, and our state played an important role in the anti-slavery movement.”

Senate Bill 384 was approved by the Senate Local, Urban and State Affairs Committee earlier this month.

The bill encourages individuals, educational institutions, and social, community, religious, labor, and business organizations to pause on Juneteenth National Freedom Day and reflect upon the strong survival instinct of the African-American slaves and the excitement and great joy with which African-Americans first celebrated the abolition of slavery.

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